

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2755

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EAID, SU, KS

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN - SUDAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 2657 (NOTAL)

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 16 SOUTH KOREAN CONGEN KIM INDICATED THAT KOREAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, TAEWOO, WILL BUILD FIVE NINE-STORY LUXURY APARTMENT UNITS WORTH SOME \$15 MILLION FOR USE DURING 1978 OAU SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN KHARTOUM. TAEWOO PRESIDENT KIM (NO KIN) MET RECENTLY WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, AND AN ORAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WHEREBY THE COMPANY WILL PROVIDE A LONG-TERM SOFT LOAN TO FINANCE PROJECT. TAEWOO, IN TURN, IS RECEIVING SIMILAR FINANCIAL HELP FROM ROKG. AS NEXT STEP, UNDER-SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORKS, MOAWIYA ABU BAKR, WILL VISIT SEOUL SHORTLY TO REVIEW BLUEPRINTS AND DISCUSS PLANNING.

2. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT KOREANS CAN MEET ORIGINAL MAY 1978 DEADLINE, BUT THEY HAVE AGREED TO COMPLETE WORK DURING 1978. NIMEIRI HAS INDICATED HE CAN GAIN POST-PONEMENT OF OAU SUMMIT TO LATER IN 1978 IN ORDER ASSURE ACCOMMODATIONS HERE READY. LUXURY APARTMENTS WILL BE
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PRESTIGE PROJECT UNDER PRESIDENT'S CLOSE SUPERVISION.

ASSUMING SOUTH KOREANS HANDLE PROJECT WELL, THEIR POSITIVE RESPONSE WILL BE APPRECIATED. IN THAT CONNECTION, ROKG SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY (AND VIA PRIVATE SECTOR) WITHOUT AGREEING COMPLETELY TO NIMEIRI'S ORIGINAL REQUEST THAT APARTMENTS BE BUILT GRATIS (REFTEL). IN IMPLEMENTING PROJECT IT IS LIKELY THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER SOUTH KOREAN WORKERS WILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT HERE WITH NET RESULT THAT SOUTH KOREAN PRESENCE WILL GROW. CONGEN KIM, WHOSE CALLING CARD REFERS TO HIMSELF AS "AMBASSADOR", SAID HE HOPES FINAL RESULT WILL BE FOR SOUTH KOREANS TO GAIN FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS HERE WHICH NORTH KOREANS ALREADY ENJOY. BREWER

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